

REMARKS

Applicants have considered the official action and rejection set forth therein. It is respectfully submitted that the claims of the application are directed to patentable subject matter as set forth below.

The sole outstanding rejection is of claims 29-43, 46-59 and 62-64 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,979,818 (Perini) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,565,033 B1 (Biagiotti).

Claims 29, 46 and 47 are the pending independent claims. Claims 29, 46 and 47 have been amended to clarify the position of the electrostatic device within the rewinding machine and the interaction between the electrostatic device and the web material and/or core. More particularly, the electrostatic device is positioned along the core insertion channel. The channel is defined by a stationary rolling surface and a movable member. The electrostatic device is now also claimed in claims 29, 46 and 47 as being along the channel in a position such that electrostatic charges are applied to at least one of the web material and each core after the core has come into contact with the web material so as to provide reciprocal adhesion or attraction between the initial free edge of the web

material and a core. Thus, the position in the channel of the electrostatic device is clarified based on the nature of the channel and on the proximity to the initial free edge of the web material and core. This is significant in that the web material and/or each core is charged very near the moment when the initial free edge forms due to interruption of the web material and adheres to the core thereby avoiding the risk of dispersion of the electrostatic charges before the core and the web material come into contact and, thus, the electrostatic attraction is very efficient between a core and the web material (see page 5, lines 3-11 and page 12, lines 20-27).

The Examiner rejects the claims based on a combination of Perini in view of Biagiotti. Perini is relied on for teaching the structure of the claimed rewinding machine except for the electrostatic device or electrostatic charge application. Perini teaches the use of a glue applicator for adhering the web material to a core. Biagiotti is relied on for teaching "the concept of using electrostatic charges ... to provide adhesion to the web" (page 2, April 16, 2010 Office Action). Biagiotti does not contain any disclosures regarding the how or means of application or where within the rewinding apparatus such should be located or the how of interaction between the web

material and a core to achieve the required adhesion. As set forth above, each of the pending independent claims 29, 46 and 47 have been amended to clarify the positioning and the application of the electrostatic charges in relation to the web material and cores so as to achieve reciprocal adhesion or attraction between the initial free edge and the core. These limitations are not disclosed in either Perini or Biagiotti. Perini is entirely silent about the possibility of replacing glue with a different means for attaching the web material on a new core. Biagiotti does mention the possibility of using electrostatic charges, suction or other alternative means for starting the winding of the web material to a core, but does not provide any disclosure beyond the general concept thereof.

Assuming one skilled in the art would have some motivation to combine the two applied references, nothing would be learned from either Perini or Biagiotti in any event as to where to apply the electrostatic charges and where to place the electrostatic device with respect to the different sections or parts of the rewinding machine so as to control the application of such charges.

Perini discloses the inclusion and use of a glue applicator for applying glue on a winding mandrel before introducing the mandrel into the rewinder. More

specifically, Perini teaches application of glue by a glue applicator 61 (Figure 1) which is arranged well upstream of the actual rewinding unit, i.e., well upstream of a channel formed between a winding roller and a stationary rolling surface. Upon combining Perini and Biagiotti as suggested by the Examiner, therefore, one skilled in the art would arrange an electrostatic device in the same position of the glue applicator 61 as taught in Perini, i.e., well upstream of the inlet of the channel 39 (Figure 2 of Perini).

This is entirely different from what applicants claim in claims 29, 46 and 47 wherein the electrostatic device is positioned along the channel rather than outside and upstream of the channel. Thus, Perini in combination with Biagiotti does not teach or suggest applicants' claimed device or method. Essential limitations of the claims would not result from the combination of Perini and Biagiotti due to the absence of teaching or suggestion therein.

The novel features of claims 29, 46 and 47 provide a surprising effect to be achieved. The electrostatic charges are applied on either the core, the web material, or both, at such an instant in time that they can effectively result in a safe and reliable attachment of the initial free edge of the web material to the core, without the risk of electrostatic charges being dispersed due to contacts of the

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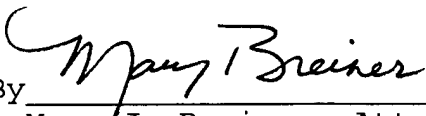
web material and/or the cores with surrounding mechanical elements or simply due to humidity in the atmosphere. It is, therefore, an advantage of the claimed device and method to provide a structure or application not taught or suggested in the applied art which allows an efficient exploitation of the electrostatic effect in order to safely control and attach the initial free edge of the web material to a core.

Accordingly, the combination of Perini and Biagiotti does not render the claimed device or methods obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the §103 rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT MORELLI ET AL

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary J. Breiner, Attorney  
Registration No. 33,161  
BREINER & BREINER, L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 320160  
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-0160

Telephone: (703) 684-6885